



*believe to achieve*

# St. Thomas' CE Primary School

## British Values Policy

Written by Paul Sanchez  
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October

Approved by Governors  
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St Thomas' CE Primary School is committed to serving its community. It recognises the multi-cultural, multi faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. It also understands the vital role it has in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally influence them whether that be by deliberate act or their own background.

It follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. St Thomas' is dedicated to preparing children for the next stage in life beyond the curriculum and ensuring that it promotes and reinforces British values to all its children.

The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that key 'British Values' are taught in all UK schools. The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

Our aim is to ensure that the education which it is planned to offer to children is in all aspects not in conflict with, or inconsistent with, any of the 5 British Values as set out below.

The five British Values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

Our curriculum ensures effective preparation of children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society. The curriculum includes group activities that teach co-operation and initiative, giving children responsibility within the school setting, and enabling children to transfer these skills to the wider community.

We aim to help children to learn to articulate their feelings and justify them in both informal and formal settings and be given responsibility and trust to develop their confidence. We celebrate all achievements and have high expectations of our children to undertake challenging tasks and participate in a wide range of experiences.

St Thomas' uses strategies within its curriculum and beyond to secure such outcomes for children. The examples that follow show some of the many ways we seek to embed British values.

### **Democracy**

Processes of democracy are taught through action; all classes follow class rules, during group lessons children make choices about activities and the most popular is carried out, encouraging responsibility and respect.

### **Rule of Law**

High expectations govern the classes, learning environments and wider school community and these expectations are consistently adhered to. The school has clear behaviour plans and expectations of conduct for children. Children learn to improve their behaviour and conduct through bespoke lessons. Clear consequences are in place when rules are broken.

### **Individual Liberty**

Children make individual choices within a safe, secure, supportive environment. Children are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and how to do so safely through continued reinforcement of, for example, e-safety and circle time. Certain aspects of the School curriculum relate to rights and responsibilities and making healthy choices. Great emphasis is placed upon the childrens' ability to communicate their needs, desires and choices using a system best suited to their individual needs.

### **Mutual Respect**

Reinforced by the positive role models and interaction of staff at all levels and visiting members of the community, school's termly topics and themes allow the opportunity to emphasise core values. Children frequently undertake fundraising for local, national and international charities, both through school-focussed charity events.

### **Tolerance of different Faiths and Beliefs**

Regular visits, themed activities and sometimes visitors including parents support the children's learning about faiths and beliefs. Our PSHE/RE/RSE work celebrates elements of celebrations and festivals across all faiths represented within our school.